

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Aiko MATSUDA, et al.) CONFIRMATION NO.: 3901
)
U.S. Serial No.: 10/648,633) Group Art Unit: 2625
Filed: August 27, 2003) Examiner: Yixing Qin

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS HAVING WRITING SPACE MODE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A response to the Office Action mailed December 12, 2007 is due by January 12, 2008. The Action required restriction between two (Groups I and II) patentably distinct inventions.

Applicants hereby elect <u>Group I of claims 1-3</u>, drawn to an image forming apparatus, for examination in this application.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected claim in due course.

It is submitted that this application now is in condition for examination on the merits and early action in that regard is solicited.

Respectfully submitted, SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

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